

4 added to Columbine lawsuits

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Denver Post

Dec. 30, 2000 –

Amended lawsuits stemming from the Columbine High shootings include four new defendants: two men who allegedly sold guns at a gun show, the gun-show operator and the owner of the pizza shop where killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold worked.

They are:

- Gun-show operator Jimmie Tanner. All four of Harris and Klebold's guns passed through his Adams County shows.

- James R. Washington and Ronald F. Hartmann of El Paso County. The two allegedly sold Robyn Anderson three of the weapons she bought for friends Harris and Klebold.

- Robert Kirgis, owner of Kirgis Inc., which owned and operated the Blackjack Pizza outlet where Klebold, Harris and friend Philip Duran worked. Kirgis created "a work environment that included the consumption of alcohol with minors, detonation of dry ice bombs, handling of gun powder, numerous fires, pyrotechnic explosions, discussions of killing and the display of bombs," the lawsuit alleges.

The suit claims Kirgis knew Harris and Klebold were playing with pipe bombs, that they brought them to the store and even asked Kirgis "to check out this pipe bomb."

Several pipe bombs were exploded behind the store during working hours, the suit claims, and that they used "Blackjack Pizza as a staging area for their attack on Columbine."

The purchase of weapons was also negotiated inside the store and some of the money used to purchase the weapons was paid at the pizza shop.

Kirgis was unavailable for comment but his mother said he no longer owns the pizza shop.

Washington, reached at home, said he wasn't aware of the lawsuit and claimed he was the wrong person, though he admitted being friends with Hartmann and that he occasionally sold guns. Hartmann couldn't be reached.

The lawsuit claims they sold two shotguns and a 9mm carbine to Anderson at a Tanner Gun Show. But investigative material released by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office shows they sold just one gun, a shotgun.

The allegations against Tanner, who rented booth space to Washington and Hartmann, claim his gun shows made it easy for the teenagers to acquire weapons. The suit alleges that Harris and Klebold had tried unsuccessfully to purchase weapons elsewhere before they succeeded at the Tanner show.

Tanner could not be reached for comment Friday night.

The amended lawsuits, filed in U.S. District Court in Denver and made public this week, were filed by lawyers representing the families of wounded students Richard Castaldo, Lance Kirklin, Mark Taylor and Sean Graves.

Hartmann was added as a defendant to the lawsuits filed on behalf of relatives of slain students Daniel Rohrbough, Kelly Fleming, Matt Kechter, Lauren Townsend, Kyle Velasquez and Cassie Bernall.